

## **CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES** **Monday, February 1, 2010**

The Regular Meeting of the Church Council, 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church of Deep River, was called to order at 7:45pm in the Upper Room by Moderator Bob Butkus.

Members in attendance: Donna Sheldon, Dennis Giroux, Bob Butkus, Tim Haut, Sybil Higgins, Nancy Peluso, Fran Phinney, Fred Phinney, Melissa Alsback, Val Nucci, Cheryl Jacome, Cathy Smith, David Johnson, and Deb Van Wyngaarden.

Rev. Haut opened with a prayer.

The minutes of the regular meeting of December 7, 2009 were unanimously approved with one addition: Nancy Peluso was representative for Personnel.

**Collector's Report** - As of January 31, 2010, \$26,191.69 has been turned over to the General Fund. Of that amount \$1,570 is advanced 2010 pledges received in 2009 and \$21,365 received in 2010 for a total of \$22,935 or 10% of amount budgeted for pledge goal. The total of Prayed For to date is \$3,610 or 12% of amount budgeted.

**Treasurer's Report** – The following report is as of January 31, 2010 : Burroughs Savings Account (Repairs & Maintenance)-\$1041.67; Cemetery Fund-\$9857.28; Debit Card Account-\$914.80; Doris Pelton Memorial Fund-~~<\$955.00>~~\*; General Fund-\$49,549.22<sup>1</sup>; Gifts & Bequests-\$58,094.06; Good Samaritan-\$4812.92; Grohs Investments Fund (for CD-3yr. term)-\$4000.00; Grohs Savings Fund (for various CE expenses)-\$4086.14; Haut Fund (Ministerial Scholarship Fund)-\$5700.76; Kitchen Fund (continuing kitchen expenses)-\$983.67; Liberty Bank CD (insurance reimbursement from silver)-\$1486.50; Macgregor Fund (outdoor ministry)-\$2103.26; Memorial Fund-\$5061.01; Mission Fund-12,979.98; Phelps Savings CD-\$5766.74; Phelps Savings (Music) \$2156.11; Program Maintenance Savings-\$2822.61; Sabbatical Fund-\$6200.34; Samuel F. Snow Fund-\$1011.67; Stephen Ministry Fund-\$12271.95; Supplemental Health Insurance (6 month CD)-\$26,449.84; and Youth Music Fund-\$827.02.

\**Gift to the fund which was to be paid by year-end 2009.*

<sup>1</sup>*\$2350 of balance is restricted with funds donated for specific use (wedding fees, funeral fee, etc.)*

Messenger costs – Mailing: Feb-\$48.80; YTD-\$109.80

**Cemetery** – Val noted all was quiet in the cemetery.

**Christian Education** – Cheryl said that the group elected officers, received their new notebook/manual for each member, and held a teacher forum on January 24th.

**Christian Service** – Melissa said that they elected officers, discussed roles and duties and what Christian service is planned for 2010. Some of the residents at Mt. St. John would like to get more involved in our church and the Board will be discussing further on how to involve them. Cathy Smith talked about the Angel Food Ministries and Council agreed to allow distribution of materials to church members regarding the program. Melissa mentioned that the group is looking to hold a multi-generational dance to raise funds for Christian Service Programs. A motion was made by Fran to allow Christian Service to hold a multi-generational dance with funds raised benefitting a Christian Service program yet to be decided. It was seconded by Melissa, which passed by unanimous vote. Melissa must check the church calendar and set a date. Once confirmed with Kris, the date will be submitted to

Council along with what Christian service is benefitting from the program. Christian Service provided breakfast for the participants of the "No Room at the Inn" program. They would like to get Teen Issues involved in helping out at the Eddy Shelter and will discuss this with Sybil and the Teen Issues teachers.

**Church Delegates** – No representative or report.

**Council Members at Large** – A letter was received by Dennis regarding the way the Messenger is now available to our members from Evie Grohs. Evie mentioned that she became aware that some of our members were not receiving the Messenger and passed along those names to Kris, but was concerned that other members may not be receiving the Messenger as well. It was the intention that every member of the church receive the Messenger by way of some media. Council asked the editors to write an appeal in the Messenger stating that if members know of someone not receiving the Messenger and wanted to, to let them know and arrangements will be made to make sure they receive a copy. There were members that were under the assumption that Whelan printed the Messenger for free, and that is not the case. The church is charged for the paper and there is a mailing cost involved. John Kollmer had been tracking the costs for the past year and came up with the suggested "donation" amount of a printed copy to off-set the costs involved with the printing/mailing of the Messenger. There are no questions asked when you submit your name to received a hard copy of the Messenger mailed. The suggested donation is not mandatory and is waived for members who choose not to or can't afford to pay. There was a reminder that extra copies are in the office and that visitors to the church are encouraged to take a copy from the Narthex. Fran noted that information showing the actual cost of mailing the Messenger first class is now noted in the Treasurer's report each month. At the end of the year, we will have the total cost. The Editors will work with Tim to review the Membership list so that, to the best of our knowledge, everyone who wants a Messenger will be receiving one.

**Deaconry** – Nancy said that this Sunday the communion bread and rolls will be gluten free. Lent is soon upon us and 2 services will be held on Ash Wednesday which is 2/17. There will be an early 6:30am service and at 7pm there will be a healing service. Lenten suppers begin on 2/24.

**Historical Committee** – No representative or report.

**Senior Minister** – Tim noted the Lenten season is upon us. He mentioned that David and Emily preached for him, which gave him a nice break. There were 3 funeral services held in January. Tim attend a reaffirmation for a former Methodist Minister who became a UCC Minister at Middlefield Church. Tim will be attending an overnight workshop at Andover-Newton for supervisors of minister interns (i.e. David Johnson). Bible study groups have started up and there is one bible study on Monday afternoons at 2pm at the church with Teri Englert and Carol Sheridan as leaders and Tim will moderate the Wednesday evening bible study group at 7:30pm at Alicia Melluzzo's Art Shop, 124 Main St. in Deep River. Tim is also looking forward to the Lenten potluck suppers starting 2/24. Be sure to attend as Pat Sajak and Vanna White will return for an encore performance.

**Director of Christian Education** – Sybil said she is preparing for her role as Vanna for the upcoming Lenten suppers. Teen Issues will be collecting \$\$ after church services for "Souper" Bowl Sunday (2/7). The 4<sup>th</sup> grade class will start communion on the 2/21 and will participate in their 1st communion service on Maundy Thursday on April 1st. Lisa McNeely and Sybil are preparing for the 30-Hour Famine programs which runs from lunch on 2/26 through dinner on 2/27. Sybil said that confirmation classes are going great and an overnight sleepover is planned on April 23-24. On the 24th the group will be visiting other area churches. The 7/8 grades are going full-force with their hygiene and school kit collections and are now handing out kit cards for more items that they are short on. Proceeds from the mission fair (\$435.50) are being sent to the First Christian Church in Slidell, Louisiana. The

donation will help fund the church's new volunteer center that they are building. Prior to sending the check, Amanda Higgins asked that the teens that went on the trip to New Orleans write letters to the church thanking them for their hospitality and what they learned from their experience in New Orleans. These letters will be mailed with the donation. The Trustees have secured a recycling bin for outside from All Waste and there will not be a charge to the church; thus the long awaited recycling program is starting. The 7/8 grade classes will be spearheading the project and monies raised from the eScrip program will be used to purchase indoor recycling baskets. The sales of the Sunday School cookbook is going well and we are now down to 150 copies. We are planning a fundraising activity to sell the rest of the cookbooks. A motion was made by Sybil to allow the Sunday School to hold a fundraising activity (The Taste of Deep River) to sell the remaining cookbooks, possibly in May. It was seconded by Deb, which passed by unanimous vote. Sybil will check the church calendar and set a date. Once confirmed with Kris, the date will be submitted to Council.

**Director of Youth and Family Ministry** - Emily had her baby and was not able to attend the meeting as she was still in the hospital. Nancy reported that 22 amazing kids participated in the "no room at the inn" program to raise awareness of the homeless problem in CT. She said that at Chester, there were great group discussions with over 100 other kids in attendance. David Johnson was a moderator for one of the discussion groups. Three former homeless people shared their experiences as well. This was the first time the Middlesex UCC groups have joined forces and they hope to do more projects together.

**Youth Groups** – No report as Emily is on maternity leave.

Joy -  
Jr. PF –  
Sr. PF -

**Nominating** – Fran made a motion to nominate Art Tirrell to the Board of Deacons. It was seconded by Nancy, which passed by unanimous vote.

**Stewardship** – Deb said that there is a shortfall in the proposed pledged amount. Only \$175,675.10 has been pledged/committed by our congregation, that's a shortfall of \$53,682.90 of the proposed budget of \$229,358. This doesn't include the "Prayed for" line of \$30,000. Deb is writing an article for the Messenger. Deb received a 2008/2009 pledge comparison and the committee will review their next step once Tim and Claudia Hardy have reviewed the list and given recommendations on how to proceed with who to send a letter to and who not to.

**Trustees** – No representative or report. There was a request that the Trustees remove the sink in the hallway outside the kitchen and coat racks. There was a suggestion that the coat racks be thrown out and some coat hooks be attached to the long wall outside the kitchen. Also, the hallway along the kitchen (where library is) be cleared of boxes, etc. as this could be a fire issue as the hallway is a fire exit.

**Women's Fellowship** – Sybil and Nancy had no report and are still looking for new leadership for this group. They did thank the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School classes for continuing their commitment by assembling the kits and collecting and last minute items to complete kits through their kit cards.

**Faire/Flea/Rummage** - Cathy spoke on behalf of the Faire committee. She said that they made \$358 more than last year; some booths were up and some were down. They were in need of a seafood bisque maker but Val Nucci volunteered; an assistant had already been secured. All other booth chairpersons are staying on board.

**Pastoral Relations** – No representative or report.

**Personnel** –Nancy noted that the group met in January; they reviewed compensation of staff as well as concerns/issue that staff may have had.

**Outdoor Ministry** – No representative or report.

**Old Business** – Cathy said that Mount St. John's students thanked us for letting them sell their greens during Fellowship Hour; they sold everything. Fran said that they are getting to the end of Member's Directory and it will be out soon. Council identified several church members as "legitimate" missionaries providing mission work through programs not directly organized through DRCC: – Abby Visel, Kaylee Moen, Cody, Grace and Maura Carver, Grace Krick, Heidi Lee, Pam and Ron Garner, Phyllis and Tim Haut and Melanie Klink. If materials are to be sent to church members as solicitation for fundraising efforts, materials must be approved by the Trustees and Tim. The reason why this is necessary is that there is certain government guidelines the church must follow as a non-profit organization as not to hinder DRCC's status, Val Nucci suggested that guidelines be available. Out of Val's suggestion, Tim will contact John Bauer about holding a meeting to discuss fundraising guidelines as they pertain to individuals seeking funds and those funds not going directly to the non-profit organization.

**New Business** – None.

Rev. Haut gave the closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Deb van Wyngaarden*

Church Clerk